



Month of the Young Child

April 2007

A PROCLAMATION FROM THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

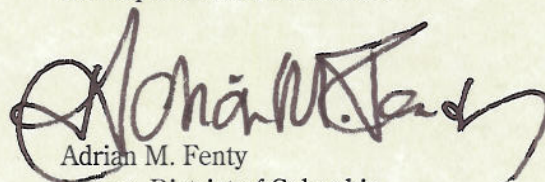

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development (MACECD) is collaborating with private and public sectors to celebrate April 2007 as *Month of the Young Child* and to focus attention on the critical years of child development, from birth through age 12; and

WHEREAS, early care and education has been identified as one of the most important economic and education issues facing the District and the country; and decades of research have clearly determined that high quality care and education increases school readiness, reduces enrollment in special education and grade retention and increases high school graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, studies have confirmed that quality early care and education is a positive and cost-effective investment for the future, resulting in subsequent benefits such as lower criminal justice system costs, savings for crime victims, and savings on school remedial services budgets; and

WHEREAS, MACECD has been instrumental in ensuring that the District's early childhood policy decisions are informed by stakeholders in the community, in guiding expansion of programmatic offerings to the community, and in advocating for greater access to comprehensive health and nutrition services for children and families:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim April 2007, as "**MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD**" in Washington, DC, and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in promoting quality early childhood development and education .



Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor, District of Columbia